Bidding Document (SBD). There is s a provision for limited sub-contracting in SBD. Sub-contracting beyond the provisions envisaged in the SBD is not permissible. Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Government who is implementing the programme. National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) has issued general guidelines on quality control and prescribed a Quality Assurance Handbook to regulate quality control process at works level.

NREG scheme in Rajasthan

†179. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a scheme to introduce National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in all districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the date from which the work related to the employment guarantee is targeted to be started in all the districts of Rajasthan under this scheme; and

(c) the amount to be allocated by the Central Government to the state under this scheme in the financial year beginning from April, 2008 alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was introduced in 6 districts of Rajasthan with effect from 2.2.2006. The Scheme was extended to six additional districts with effect from 1.4.2007. The Government has notified all the remaining districts of the State for coverage under NREGS with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) NREGS is demand driven and not allocation based. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

High and variable interest rates on loans under SGSY

180. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks are charging high or variable interest rates on loans provided to the people from below poverty line under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (S GSY);

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to address the anomaly and also to encourage synergies that promote skill development and entrepreneurship in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Some States/State officials do report the charging of interest rate above Prime Lending Rate (PLR) by some banks in the CLCC meetings, PRC meetings and PD Conference. The Ministry has immediately taken up the matter with RBI, States and Ministry of Finance, NABARD to take corrective measures. The issue of charging of high interest rates by the banks has always been the agenda item of above meetings. Hon'ble Minister (RD) has also taken up the matter with the Hon'ble Minister of Finance on the issue.

(d) Does not arise.

Target fixed by Planning Commission under PMGSY in Assam

181. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ambitious plan of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has met the target fixed by the Planning Commission in Assam;

(b) the details of the amount of money spent in each road, district-wise;

(c) the details of sanction against the Roads, yet to be completed in the district of Barpeta, Sirang and Bongaigaon;

(d) the number of projects which are still incomplete alongwith the district-wise details and number of project on which work has not started so far; and

(e) the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Outcome target and achievements under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Assam for the year 2007-08 are as under:—

	Target	Achievement upto Jan., 08
Length in Km.	1685	481.84
Habitations (in Nos.)	995	295

(b) to (d) Funds under PMGSY are released to the State as per PMGSY programme guidelines. Physical and financial progress of works taken up in the State under PMGSY are monitored by the Ministry. However, district-wise and road-wise details are maintained by the State Government. The details of physical and financial progress under PMGSY are also available on the website http://omms.nic.in.

(e) Reasons for delay in the implementation of some PMGSY projects are lack of adequate institutional and contracting capacity, non-availability of land, delay in obtaining clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, delay in completion of long span bridges, unfavourable weather conditions etc.